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Disability Commission Minutes 05/18/05

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES MAY 18, 2005

Members Present: Tom Boudreau, Barbara Cutler, Joseph Giurleo, Barbara Jones,
 Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Lin Baker, Susan James, Louis Krodel

Staff Absent: Jack Jones

Guests Present: Richard Cutts, Vice President of Engineering John Crowe Associates, John Cole, Chairman Town of Arlington
 Permanent
 Town Building Committee, Stephan Chaires, Project Manager
 DRA Associates, Paolo Marinelli, Pedestrian Advocate

Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2005:

Joe made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 3/16/2005. SO VOTED

Peirce Elementary School Ramp Issue:

John Cole in his explanation of the function of the Permanent Town Building Committee said that the Committee made up entirely of volunteers is responsible for overseeing the work of contractors and architects hired by the Committee to work on building projects. John Cole said that the Committee reports to Town Meeting on Town building construction issues and is responsible for approving the final payment on each building construction project. Barbara C. told John Cole that the Disability Commission wants to be informed of any accessibility issues on building projects that are overseen by the Permanent Town Building Committee.

Barbara C. said that Bruce Bruneau, Community Access Monitor at the Mass. Office on Disability, had concerns regarding any favorable action the Commission would consider pertaining to supporting DRA's request for a variance on the circular ramp at the Peirce Elementary School. Barbara Cutler's opinion was that the Commission should leave the decision regarding the Peirce School Ramp to the Architectural Access Board (AAB).

Richard Cutts said that Jerry LeBlanc a member of the AAB informed him that the variance request for the circular ramp at the Peirce School was not denied because the ramp was considered a circular ramp, but was denied because the slope of the ramp was not in compliance with building codes. Richard Cutts requested the consideration of the Commission to support a variance request for the circular ramp with the understanding that all slope requirements of the ramp will be in compliance. Richard Cutts said that if a variance were granted for the ramp the slope of the ramp would be adjusted during the summer months to comply with slope requirements of ramps. Stephan Chaires said that the variance request is only to address the issue that prior approval was not received to construct a circular ramp. Tom made a motion seconded by Kevin to support the request for a variance if all slope requirements of the ramp are met. SO VOTED
 (Four members voted in favor, one member voted opposed.)

Dallin Elementary School:

Stephan Chaires reviewed building plans of the Dallin School with Commission Members. Stephan said that the Dallin will have one elevator, with two accessible parking spaces, and that all four entrances will be accessible with automatic door openers that will also include handles. Barbara J. said that door handles are needed for people with visual impairments. Kevin said that sidewalks should be installed on Florence Avenue across the Street from the Dallin. Kevin said that these sidewalks are not part of the site plan of the Dallin School and therefore other funding to construct these sidewalks will be needed.

Other Business:

Barbara C. discussed with John Cole the Commission's concern about brick sidewalks.

Barbara C. discussed the summer meeting schedule with members agreeing to cancel the July Meeting.

Kevin said that on May 23 Town Meeting would decide if the zoning should be changed where the Housing Authority manages duplex units in East Arlington from a R2 to R5, which will allow for modifications to three duplex homes. If the zoning is changed the Housing Authority will make renovation to three existing duplexes, which will allow an additional unit to be added to each. These homes will have two units each side-by-side that will be fully accessible with an additional unit on the second floor.

CDBG Funding:

Kevin said that a FY 2006 appropriation of \$25,000 for curb ramp work would be added to \$22,000 unspent from previous fiscal years for curb ramp construction work to be completed during the summer of 2005. Barbara C. said that this work should be completed in FY 2005. Paolo requested that a Member of the Commission attend Town Meeting to express concerns of the Commission as to the FY 2006 curb ramp appropriation. Commission Members agreed that because there would not be adequate time to prepare for a discussion at Town Meeting the Commission would not send a member or representative to address this issue. Kevin said that \$70,000 of the \$225,000 for repairs to the Locke School Playground would be for ADA compliance issues. Barbara C. expressed concern that the Commission was not involved with this decision and said that she intends to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding this concern. Kevin said that, in his opinion, this year the Selectmen were making a priority of completing playground renovations and repairs. Kevin distributed a survey of potential sites along Mass. Ave. for curb cut work. Commission Members will review this survey and make recommendations on the location of curb ramp work.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.